The member said that it would be enough if the Government ask some officer, now present, who had worked there.

DEWAN : That is second-hand information. I will myself enquire about it.

Another matter that you referred to was the Chittar scheme. I have never heard of any Chittar scheme in my life.

The member said that the scheme had been spoken of in the last session.

DEWAN : I find that that scheme had been abandoned.

The member said that the abandoned scheme was the Vannanpara scheme.

DEWAN : Anyway I do not know anything about it at present. You also said that land had been given away or granted. I have not seen any recommendation for the sale or grant of land anywhere there.

The member gave the Survey Nos. of the lands proposed to be granted and referred to them as the catchment area of the Chittar.

DEWAN : I find you have heard a lot more than I have. Anyhow, I shall enquire about it, and if there is any irrigation scheme, I shall ask the Chief Engineer to let me have all the available information on the matter.

As regards your other points, they will be taken up in due course and Government will try to dispose of them during the year.

87. Needs of the Vilavankod taluk.

MR. MUHAMMAD HANEEF (*Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhitturai*) represented that the Ashtami festival day in the Tirumala temple in the month of Vrischikam and the Meena-Bharani festival day in the Bhagavati temple at Kollenkod were two important Hindu festivals, which many Hindu pilgrims of South Travancore attended. On the above days it was very inconvenient for the officers and the clients to attend offices and courts punctually. Less important festival days in other taluks had been declared local holidays. The two festival days mentioned above should be declared as local public holidays throughout the Vilavankod taluk.

The water supply during the hot season in markets other than those under the control of the Municipal Council was not adequate. The Government grant for the purpose was too small and the amount was not properly utilised. Additional amounts as in the case of Municipal markets should be sanctioned and arrangements should be made for spending the whole amounts for the purpose.

The lane between Mangattukadavu and Parthivapuram temple was in a low level and subject to submersion during rainy season when the Kuzhitturai river would be in floods. Its level should be raised and it should be converted into a road. He knew that the matter was under reference to the Chief Engineer but he wanted the matter to be expedited. The above work would render communication between the two chief trade centres of Kaliakkavila and Tengapattanam easier.

In regard to the establishment of a hospital at Kuzhitturai, the Government's reply to the representation made at the previous session on the subject was that the condition of medical relief in the taluk was adequate and there was no necessity for a Government hospital at Kuzhitturai. The Mission hospital in the locality was of no use to the comparatively poor people, because medicines could not be had free from them as from Government hospitals. If a Government hospital could not be opened, the grant to the Mission hospital should be increased in view to enable the authorities to dispense medicines free.

The Kuzhitturai river was subject to floods more than once every year, and the people living on the banks of the river at Kuzhitturai and other neighbouring places were suffering considerable losses. It took about seven hours for the water to flow from Kulasekharam to Kuzhitturai. If only previous information about impending floods be given to the people, they could make arrangements to prevent loss of life and property. In order to do that, telephone communication should be opened between the Public Works Department Section Offices at Kulasekharam and

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Kuzhitturai. There was such communication between the two places at the time of the construction of the Pechippara dam but it was since abolished. Under the existing arrangements, messages were sent from Pechippara to Kulasekharam, from there to Nagercoil or Tuckalai by telephone and from there to Kuzhitturai.

The court-houses were situated on a low level. As a result of the representations made at previous sessions, the Government had sanctioned a sum of Rs. 6,710 for the construction of a building for housing the Magistrate's Court. The Munsiff's Court should also be removed from its present site. During the last floods, the level of the flood water was only 2 feet below the court-house. The member therefore suggested that the recently burnt Taluk Cutcherry building be made into a two-storied building, utilising, for the purpose, the amount sanctioned for the construction of the Magistrate's Court and the amount that would have to be spent for restoring the Taluk Cutcherry building. If his proposal be accepted, the two courts could be held in the same building, besides setting free the *satram* building for its legitimate use by the public.

The necessity for making the civil and revenue jurisdictions of the Vilavankod taluk co-extensive was urged upon the Government at the previous session and the Government had invited the views of the High Court in the matter. The member said that he knew that the High Court had sent up their report. He requested that the matter might be expedited.

The Police Commissioner should devote more attention to motor traffic, especially in the matter of regulating the speed of cars plying for hire. Accidents were generally occurring at sharp bends and on narrow roads. The roads at such places should be widened.

The Vilavankod taluk should be made a separate constituency for purposes of Legislative Council elections. Communal friction, which was evident at the previous general elections, would then disappear. Vilavankod was not second to any other constituency, judged by its population or the number of voters. It was therefore legitimate that it should be given due representation in the Council for safeguarding its interests.

There were three liquor shops within the limits of the Kuzhitturai municipal town. One of them was situated in the market and the other two near the schools, public offices and the bazaar. The shops were a source of menace to the school-going children and the peaceful residents of the locality, and should therefore be removed outside the town limits.

The Government had stated that the question of opening a dispensary at Putukada in order to benefit the inhabitants of Tengapattanam also was under consideration. The dispensary was a necessity. If the Government could not find a suitable building for housing the dispensary, the vacant Customs House building at Tengapattanam might be utilised for the purpose.

In view of the large number of crimes in the taluk, a First Class Magistrate's Court had been maintained in the taluk for a long time. It had since removed elsewhere and offences had been on the increase. The complainants had to go to Padmanabhapuram for seeking redress for serious offences. That was inconvenient. The matter, said to be under consideration, should be expedited.

The member's next prayer was for the opening of a road leading from the Kuzhithura-Pattanam road, 1st mile, to a place near the cattle market on the Martandam-Karinkal road. The total length of the proposed road would only be a mile. During times of flood, the portion between the Kuzhitturai tollgate and the 1st mile of the Kuzhitturai-Pattanam road would be under water.

The *visha-vaidyasala* at Martandam was a useful institution not only to the people of the Vilavankod taluk but also of neighbouring taluks. The *visha-vaidyans* as a class were morally prohibited from receiving remuneration for the services rendered by them, unlike other *vaidyans*. In the circumstances, a grant-in-aid should be awarded to the *vaidyasala*. The finances of the local Municipal Council would not permit the award of a grant from the Council.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Haneef, your request on behalf of your Hindu brethren of the place to have Meena-Bharani and Ashtami to be declared as local holidays is under discussion now with the Devaswom Commissioner.

I shall ask the Public Works Department to take up the question of restoring the telephone connection that Kuzhitturai at one time had. I think there will be no difficulty in meeting your wishes in regard to that matter.

I am afraid it is not possible to give Vilavankod special or separate representation in the Legislative Council, at present at any rate.

As regards the construction of a road from the Kuzhitturai-Pattanam road, I am advised that is not really urgent and that there are other roads in Travancore which call for earlier attention.

Your other points will be taken note of for consideration in due course.

The Assembly will now adjourn. We have to make greater progress and have to sit for longer hours. So we will begin at 11 A. M. on Monday.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-50 P. M.

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